GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:396
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
CLOSURE OF COPPER MINES
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down many copper mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reserves of copper in those mines is large and economically viable to extract the copper;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to hand-over some of the copper mines to the private sector and;

(f) if not, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) & (b) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has closed the following mines in the District of East Singhbhum, Jharkhand with the approval of the Government.

Name of the mine	Year of closure
Mosaboni (Including Badia) mine	1997
Pathargora mine	2000
Kendadih mine	2000

Besides the above, operation in Rakha Copper mine at Jharkhand have ceased since June, 2001 after all the employees working at Rakha Copper Project took Voluntary Retirement.

HCL has also sought permission of the Government under Section 25 (o) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for closure of Surda mine along with other establishments at Mosaboni located in the State of Jharkhand and Khetri mine in the State of Rajasthan. These measures are necessary because of the chronic losses in Hindustan Copper Limited and commercial considerations because of high operational cost.

(c) & (d) No, the reserves of copper in the mines closed/proposed for closure are not large. To extract copper from these mines is not economically viable. On the contrary the operation of these mines are contributing to immense losses.

(e) & (f) Disinvestment of Hindustan Copper Limited is included in the disinvestment programmeof the Government. The Govt. has decided to disinvest HCL as a whole, including the mines.